

新装版

バッテリー

1

原作

あさのあつこ

作画

柚庭千景



Battery



**BATTER
OUT!!**

STRIKE!



**MAN,
THAT PITCHER
IS AMAZING!**

**Woah!
A
NO-HITTER?!**

**GAME
SET!!**



**SO
THAT IS
HARADA
TAKUMI,
HUH?**



Battery

バッテリー

Original
story
by
**Asano
Atsuko**

Art
by
**Yuniwa
Chikage**

Chapter
1
**How
it came
to be**



*Crossing
the Orochi
Pass—*

*It was in
late March
that my
big brother
and I came
to this town.*

**BIG
BROTHER,
LOOK!**

THAT IS...!



THAT'S
NITTA.

OH...!



BUT I AM
BETTER.
I HAVEN'T
GONE TO THE
HOSPITAL
LATELY.

YOU'LL
BREATHE IN
NITTA'S PURE
AIR AND GET
BETTER.



DON'T
WORRY,
SEIHA
WILL BE.

Now,
now,
that's
dangerous.

THIS IS
AMAZING!

BE NICE
TO HIM.

FROM
NOW ON,
WE'RE GOING
TO LIVE WITH
MAMA'S
DADDY IN
NITTA.



*Have
some
business
there.*

*IT MIGHT
HAVE COME
IN A GOOD
TIME.*

*HIROSHI,
DEAR,
YOUR JOB
TRANSFER,*





**Don't
under-
estimate
me!**

*A straight
Fastball
inside.*

What?!

STRIKE!

**BATTER
OUT!!**



**Dammit
...!!**



**A
sinker?!**



*The ball
sunk a little
right before
it got to
me...!*



*Someone
else throwing
a pitch!! can't
throw...!*





**BIG
BROTHER!**



**WE ARRIVED
AT GRANDPA'S
HOUSE!**

**WE'RE
HERE.**

KOSHUEN
APPEARANCES:
FOUR TIMES
IN SPRING,
SIX TIMES
IN SUMMER.

THE
RENOWNED
COACH OF
NITTA HIGH
SCHOOL'S
BASEBALL
CLUB.

NITTA HIGH
SCHOOL'S
KOSHUEN
APPEARANCES
WERE REDUCED
TO ZERO...

EVER SINCE
IOKA YUJICHI
LEFT HIS JOB
AS A COACH
14 YEARS
AGO,

Ioka

井岡





ABOUT
GRANDPA,
I MEAN.

WHY
DIDN'T YOU
TELL ME?



flinch

I THOUGHT IT
HAD NOTHING
TO DO WITH
YOU.

AH, WELL...
THAT WAS A
LONG TIME
AGO.



...Doesn't
understand
anything.

THAT IS
UP TO ME
TO DECIDE,
DAD.

He...

...IF IT WAS
ANYTHING
TO DO WITH
ME OR NOT,



THAT WILL BE
YOUR SCHOOL
STARTING APRIL..
IT'S NITTA EAST
JUNIOR HIGH.

THAT
CREAM
BUILDING
OVER
THERE.

I KNOW.

OH...
LOOK,
TAKUMI.

...



YOU
ALSO
LOOKED
THAT UP?

THEY'LL BE
LOSING THEIR
KEY PLAYERS
THIS YEAR,
SO EVEN THE
REGIONAL
TOURNAMENT
WILL BE
DIFFICULT.

THEIR
BASE-
BALL
CLUB
ISN'T
VERY
STRONG.



120
L

IF THEY'RE
GOING TO HAVE
A HARD TIME
THROUGH THE
REGIONALS,
THEN THE
NATIONALS
ARE OUT
OF THE...

THEY'LL
MAKE IT.

A WEAK TEAM
MIGHT NOT
BE ENOUGH
FOR PITCHER
HARADA,
HUH?



I'M GOING
OUT FOR
A RUN.



ISN'T IT MORE
INTERESTING
TO SAY:
"THEY ONLY
DID IT BECAUSE
HARADA WAS
THERE"?

RATHER THAN
SAYING THE TEAM
MADE IT BECAUSE
"THEY WERE
SURE TO WIN",





*This is...
Ioka Youzou.*



SO,
YOU CAME,

TAKUMI.



*I didn't
expect
him to be
this tiny.*

.....



*But
there's
something
I want
from
you.*

...GRANDPA.



TEACH ME
BREAKING
BALLS.





YOU KNOW
WHAT MY PITCH
LOOKS LIKE,
GRANDPA?

...THAT
STRAIGHT
FASTBALL IS
MORE THAN
ENOUGH AT
YOUR AGE.

Don't we
have some
catching
up to do
instead?

WHAT'S THIS,
ALL OF A
SUDDEN?



I SAW THE
SEMINALS OF
THE CHUGOKU
TOURNAMENT.

AND
A SINKER,
IF POSSIBLE.

A
CURVEBALL.

SO A
STRAIGHT
FASTBALL TO
THE INSIDE
COULD SINK
NATURALLY
LIKE THAT.

DID THAT
LOOK LIKE A
SINKER TO YOU?
HE USED AN
UNDERHAND
PITCHING
FORM.

*Then...
That
means
he saw
that.*

*THAT
DEFINITELY
WAS A
SINKER!*



I WAS
STRUCK
OUT!

MY SKILLS
AS A PITCHER
ARE FAR
SUPERIOR.

*That's
why
I won't
allow it.*

THEY'RE ABOVE
JUNIOR HIGH
OR EVEN HIGH
SCHOOL
LEVEL!

COME ON,
TEACH
ME.

I'M NOT
GOING TO
USE THEM
IN GAMES.

*Other guys
being able
to throw
pitches
I can't
throw...!*

NO CAN
DO.

I WANT
TO BE
ABLE TO
THROW
THEM!

I JUST,



TRY
LOOKING
A BIT
FURTHER
AHEAD.

TAKUMI.
THERE IS
SOMETHING
ELSE YOU
SHOULD BE
DOING RIGHT
NOW INSTEAD OF
LEARNING SOME
RANDOM
BREAKING
BALLS.



**YOU
FOOL.**



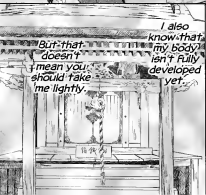
YOU SEE,
BASEBALL,
IS WAY
BIGGER
THAN YOU
THINK.



...Dammit...!!



I'm aware.
I know that
breaking
balls will
be a great
burden on
my elbow.



But that
doesn't
mean you
should take
me lightly.

I also
know that
my body
isn't fully
developed
yet.



*I really
want
to pitch
with all
I have.*

*Right
now,*

*I'm not
as much
of a kid
as you
think
I am.*

*You're
the one
who doesn't
understand,
grandpa.*

*There's no one
capable of
catching
my pitches
in Nitta.*

*But it's
impossible
here...*



*I want
to
pitch.*

Shit!!

*I want
to
pitch.*

*A
mitt...*

*A mitt that
can catch
the balls
I throw...*

*I want
to
pitch.*

*Why
is there
no one?!*



*Right
now!*



*I want
to
pitch!!*

*I want
one...*



***I don't
care who
it is—***

Whistle ♪

***NICE
PITCHING!***



What's
with...

12

HERE
YOU GO.

...This
guy?

FROM
THE WHITE
TIGERS.

YOU'RE
HARADA
TAKUMI,
RIGHT?



SO I TAGGED
ALONG WITH HIM
AND WENT TO
HIROSHIMA TO
WATCH THE
CHUGOKU
TOURNAMENT.

I HEARD FROM
THE COACH THAT
YOU WERE THE
GRANDSON OF
UNCLE IOKA,

He's huge.
Is he in the
judo club?

...AM I
THAT
FAMOUS?

I GUESS.

...

Oh yeah?

YOUR TEAM,
IN THE PRE-
FECTURAL?

THAT'S
WHERE I
FIRST SAW
YOU—

OUR TEAM
MADE IT TO
THE PREFECTURAL
TOURNAMENT
LAST YEAR.

TO TELL YOU
THE TRUTH,
I'VE BEEN
KEEPING AN
EYE ON YOU.



...THEN,
DOES THAT
MEAN YOU'LL
BE IN JUNIOR
HIGH THIS
YEAR?

YEP.
THE NITTA
STARS.



This
guy...



A 7th
grader
with
that
body
...?!

OF COURSE!
I ALREADY
GRADUATED FROM
ELEMENTARY
SCHOOL!



Not to mention,
he's carrying that
heavy-looking bucket
so easily with just
one hand...

He's really
strong.

HEY,
GOU-CHAN.
LET'S GO
BACK.

IT'S
GETTING
DARK.

All right,
all right.



WANT TO
RIDE IN THE
BACK?



BUT MAN,
YOUR PITCHES
KEEP THEIR
STUFF.

RIGHT
BEFORE
IT GETS
TO THE
BATTER?

YEAH..



NO.

I'M GOOD,
I'LL RUN.

WE CAN GO
HALF OF OUR
WAY BACK
TOGETHER.

Okay
then..



IF HE TRIES
TO HIT IT,
THAT IS.

IF THAT
PITCH COMES
IN LOW,
EVEN A
DECENT
BATTER
WOULD BE
JAMMED.



...



AND IF HE
DOESN'T?

HE'LL BE
STRUCK
OUT.



SHOULD I

PITCH IT
TO YOU?







And how is that relevant?

I didn't even ask.

1=2 1=2 1=2 1=2

ALSO, I HEARD THAT MY MOM AND YOUR MOM USED TO BE CLASSMATES!

MY HOUSE IS PRETTY CLOSE, YOU KNOW?

Try talking to her about it.



I guess it isn't so bad.

...IF I can practice pitching properly with a catcher.

Don't forget!

All right after!



I can pitch to my heart's content!!

Like this



YOU'RE LATE.

TAKUMI.

We already started eating.



A ROUND
TRIP TO THE
SHRINE IS
BARELY 5 KM,
ISN'T IT?

You sure
took your
time.



THAT I WAS
LATE BECAUSE
A 5 KM RUN
WORE ME OUT?

IS THAT
WHAT YOU
REALLY
THINK?



WE DROVE
FOR SO MANY
HOURS.

EVEN TAKUMI
WOULD BE
EXHAUSTED
AFTER THAT.



...DAD.

AM I
WRONG?

WHAT,

flinch



TAKUMI!



**WHAT'S WITH
YOUR ATTITUDE?!
IT'S ABOUT
TIME YOU
STOP THAT!**



**MAKIKO,
THAT'S
ENOUGH.**

**WE'RE
HAVING A
PLEASANT
DINNER
HERE.**

**...Why doesn't
he understand?**

**TRY BEING
CONSIDERATE
FOR ONCE!**



*I haven't missed a single
run ever since
Fourth grade.*

*I pitched by myself
throughout all the games
I played.*

*He should be aware
of these things by now—*

**How can he
know so little
about me?!**





YOU WERE
TALKING WITH
SOMEONE,

RIGHT,
BIG BROTHER?



...THERE
WAS THIS
WEIRD
GUY.

HIS NAME WAS
NAGAKURA
GOU.



YOU MET
SOMEONE
ON THE WAY,
AND THEN
TALKED FOR
A BIT...
RIGHT?



OH. YOU MET
GOU?

She'll come by
tomorrow
to help.

She was
happy when
I told her I was
returning
to Nitta.

OH,
THAT'S RIGHT,
BEGCHAN'S...

YOU
KNOW,
MAKIRO,
THE ONE
IN YOUR
CLASS...

HE'S THE
CHILD OF THE
NAGAKURA'S
WHO RUN THE
HOSPITAL.

...SEIHA,
LET GO
OF MY
HAND.

Oh!

SORRY.

SHE DID
HAVE A
BOY OF THE
SAME AGE
AS TAKUMI.

IT'S WARM
AND FIRM!

BUT BIG
BROTHER,
YOUR HAND





I HAD
THE TIME
BECAUSE
I ALWAYS
MISSED
CLASSES.



I READ
ALL OF HIS
STORIES!

YOU'RE LIKE
SHERLOCK
HOLMES.



I MIGHT
GET BETTER
HERE IN
NITTA.

SAY, BIG
BROTHER.



DO YOU THINK
I CAN GROW
TO BE LIKE
YOU?



That would be impossible for you, Seiha.



...WHO KNOWS.



WHERE SHOULD I PUT THIS-?

AUNTIE!

PEOPLE FROM MY HUSBAND'S COMPANY ARE ALSO HERE, SO THIS SHOULDN'T TAKE VERY LONG.

Feel free to use him as you see fit.

Thank you, Seichan!

GOU-KUN IS A LIFESAVER!

DON'T ORDER ME AROUND.

Mind your own business.

HARADA!

BE SURE TO PUT ON SOME WORKING GLOVES BEFORE YOU CARRY ANYTHING.

You'll hurt your fingertip.

ONLY IF WE FORM A BATTERY, THOUGH.

I'M JUST WORRIED ABOUT YOU.

THEY SAY THAT A CATCHER IS LIKE YOUR WIFE, YOU KNOW?

TAKE THIS ONE AS WELL, GOU-CHAN.

To my room.





**WE
WILL.**

**MARK MY
WORDS!**



!



Hmm

WE STILL
DON'T KNOW
IF YOU CAN
ACTUALLY CATCH
MY PITCHES.

MORE
IMPORTANTLY...

What's
with that
confidence...?



Tokarev is a pistol model used by the former Soviet Union military





Even though
he made
that face
yesterday—



What's
with him?
He's
just a
brat.

WHAT NOW?

OH YEAH.

ALSO, HARADA?

cough

What an elusive guy...

Here, Gou-
chan!
Got Back
it!! home!

IF WE GO TO THE KOSHEN,

WOULDN'T WE LOOK KIND OF LAME?

OR
AT LEAST
DROP THE
-CHAN
PART.

STOP
CALLING ME
GOU-CHAN.

.....



Okay,
back to
work.

PLEASE,
AND THANKS!



*This guy
is really
weird...*

Disarm
if you can't
stop

PTN.

THEY'RE
OUTSIDE.

- I thought
we were
- being

OUTSIDE?

Copyright

WHERE ARE
TAKUMI AND
GOU-KUN?

4477

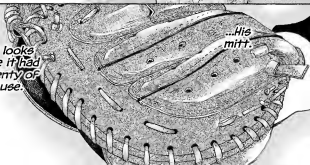
Oh,
from India.

Figure 1 illustrates the experimental design. It consists of two parts: (a) 'No change in the number of subjects' and (b) 'Change in the number of subjects'. In part (a), a group of 10 subjects is divided into two groups of 5. The first group receives a 'Control' treatment, and the second group receives an 'Experimental' treatment. In part (b), the group is divided into two groups of 4. The first group receives a 'Control' treatment, and the second group receives an 'Experimental' treatment. After the experimental treatment, the second group is further divided into two groups of 2, each receiving a 'Control' treatment.



*It looks
like it had
plenty of
use.*

*...His
mitt.*





Could it be
that he's
actually
capable of
doing it...?

He has
also been
thorough
in its
maintenance.



**ALL RIGHT,
LET'S GET
STARTED!**

*Is 18,44 meters
ahead of the
mound.*

*That
mitt...*

ト
ン
ン





*This
sound.*



HARADA.
ARE YOU
THROWING
YOUR BEST
STUFF?



*I've always
wanted to
hear this
sound...*



THAT'S
WHAT I
THOUGHT.

AS IF
I COULD
DO THAT
RIGHT OFF
THE BAT.



THEN
ANYONE COULD
THROW IT.

IF IT
WAS THAT
PITCH JUST
NOW,



**Don't
compare
my pitches
with the
pitchers
out there!!**



**GO
GET MY
SPIKES!**

**IF PITCHER
HARADA
IS GETTING
SERIOUS.**

**THEN
CATCHER
NAGAKURA
HAS TO
AS WELL.**



**... "Anyone
could
throw
it"?!"**

**Stop
screwing
with me!!**

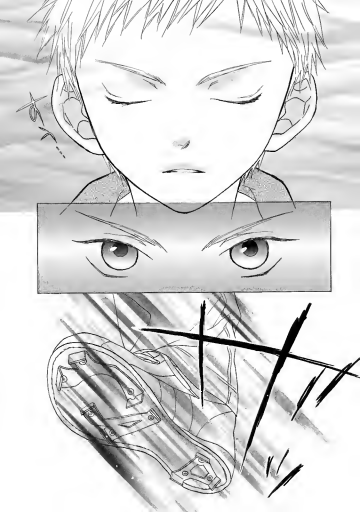


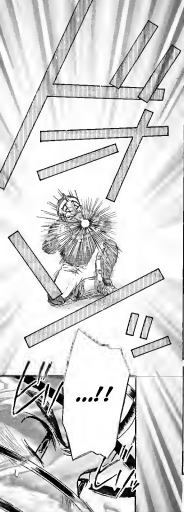
HARADA!

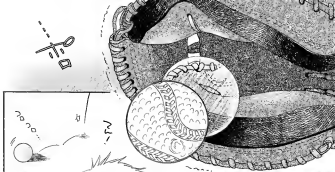
*RIGHT
IN THE
MIDDLE!*



*A STRAIGHT
ONE!*







DON'T
DROP IT.

YOU PLAN
ON LETTING
A RUNNER
GET TO
FIRST?

WHAT,

IF THERE WAS
A RUNNER ON
FIRST BASE,
HE WOULD HAVE
DEFINITELY
STOLEN
SECOND.



So
incredibly
...

Heavy
...



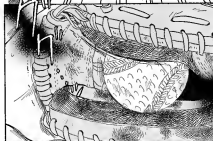
ONE OR TWO
MIGHT GET
ON BASE
DURING A
GAME.

WELL...



IF IT'S
JUST TWO
OF THEM,
THEN I'LL
ALLOW IT!





...I DID IT.

.....



HOW'S THAT?!

I CAUGHT IT, HARADA!

*-That's right,
five pitches.*

*After just five of them,
he's already able to
catch it.*



**I CAUGHT
IT ON THE
FIFTH!**

**BUT
IT ONLY
TOOK FIVE
PITCHES!**

*Isn't
that
your job,
anyway?*

**...ARE YOU
GOING TO
BRAG ABOUT
IT EVERY
TIME?**



11/10



*Catch my
pitches
this easily!*



SO IT
SEEMS.

... GOU-CHAN
NO LONGER
DROPS THE
BALL...



YOU
THINK SO,
SEIHA?

BIG BROTHER
LOOKS REALLY
HAPPY.



*Damn
it.*

*As if I'd
let some
countryside
catcher
who can't
even win the
prefectorals...*

*That's Fine,
Takumi.*



*That's all
you need,*

Takumi.

*Is the one
where you pitch
a straight ball
right into the
catcher's mitt.*

*The baseball
you should
be playing
right now...*





...This
Feels good.

pant



Who is sure
to catch
my ball at
Full speed.



HARADA!
LOOSE UP
A LITTLE!

There's
someone...

THEY
MIGHT
BECOME
A GOOD
BATTERY.

THOSE
TWO...

*I didn't know
that could feel
this good.*

*That
was...*





*How big
brother
and Gou-
chan*



*The
best
battery-*

*Came
to be.*